Army Reserve

Training Special Edition

August 2000

In memoriam
Col. Bernard Taylor, Jr.
Deputy Chief, Army Reserve (IMA)
October 11, 1946 - June 20, 2000

Army Reserve

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Since 1954. America's largest circulating military magazine

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Correction: In the Summer edition of Army Reserve magazine, page 17, Ms. Guthrie was inaccurately listed as the Public Affairs Officer for the 84th Division. She is the Asst. Pubic Affairs Offcier. Additionally, the correct web site address is 84thdivision.com.

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Editor's Note: Col. Bernard Taylor, Jr., Deputy Chief, Army Reserve (Individual Mobilization Augmentee), passed away June 20. He had been an instructor at the U.S. Army Infantry School and executive officer of an airborne training company. As an Army Reserve company and ARCOM commander, he knew the importance of training to ensure USAR soldiers and units are ready at all times. This training special edition of ARMY RESERVE is dedicated to him.

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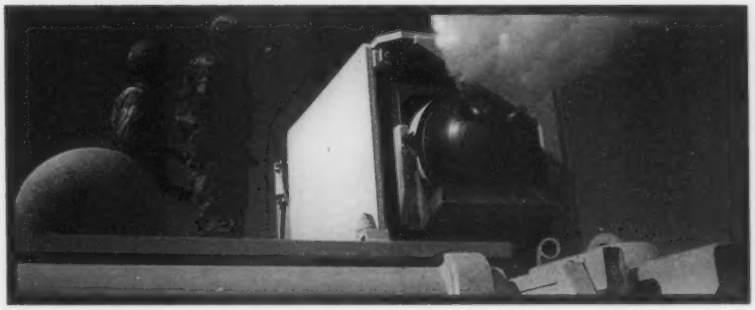

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Army Reserve loses key

U.S. Army Photo

Among those offering their respects were Gen. Eric K. Shinseki,

Col. Bernard Taylor, Jr., Deputy Chief, Army Reserve (Individual Mobilization Augmentee)

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Randy Pullen

ARLINGTON, Va.—One of the U.S. Army Reserve's key leaders was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery July 10.

Col. Bernard Taylor, Jr., Deputy Chief, Army Reserve (Individual Mobilization Augmentee), Office of the Chief, Army Reserve, passed away suddenly on June 20. He was 53. He had been assigned as DCAR (IMA) since December 1, 1999. In his civilian occupation, he was a senior logistics analyst with Government Support Services, Inc.

Following a standing room only memorial service at Fort Myer's Old Post Chapel, Taylor's flag-draped casket was borne on a horse-drawn caisson to its burial space at Arlington National Cemetery. Accompanying the caisson was a caparisoned (riderless) horse with the traditional reversed boots in the stirrups, signifying a fallen commander. The caisson escort included two platoons of B Company, 3rd U.S. Infantry ("the Old Guard") and The U.S. Army Band ("Pershing's Own").

Honors were rendered at gravesite, to include three volleys from a firing party and the playing of "Taps". The flag that covered the casket was carefully folded and presented to Taylor's widow, Katherine Taylor. Condolences were offered to the Taylor family by a large gathering of general officers, senior officers, friends and Taylor's fellow citizen-soldiers.

Among those offering their respects were Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, U.S. Army Chief of Staff, Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes, Chief, Army Reserve, and Maj. Gen. Roger Schultz, Director of the Army National Guard. Taylor had served under Shinseki in 1997 and 1998 when Shinseki was the commanding general of U.S. Army Europe and in his final assignment he served under both Shinseki and Plewes.

Taylor was remembered as a soldier who took on the toughest jobs and found a way to accomplish the mission, no matter how difficult the challenge, according to Col. Malcolm B. Westcott, Deputy Chief, Army Reserve.

"Bernie Taylor was an outstanding leader, a solid professional and a master logistician who made a significant impact on the efficiency and readiness of not just the Army Reserve but of the Army," said Westcott.

Taylor's death was a blow to the entire Army Reserve community. Among those who knew him best were the men and women of the 7th Army Reserve Command in Europe. Taylor had served there as deputy commander and acting commander. Simultaneously, he was also the commander of the U.S. Army Europe Mobilization Support Center for Operation JOINT GUARD.

"Bernie Taylor was a man of action, who therefore naturally relished command," said Brig. Gen. Paul Patrick, the 7th ARCOM's current commanding general. "He provided clear direction and focus to the staff and the command when he was selected as the acting commander of the 7th ARCOM when Brig. Gen. Brautigan left for a new assignment at EUCOM.

"His [Taylor's] approach to his new position was epitomized by his statement to the staff: 'Acting commander? Let me tell you all

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leader

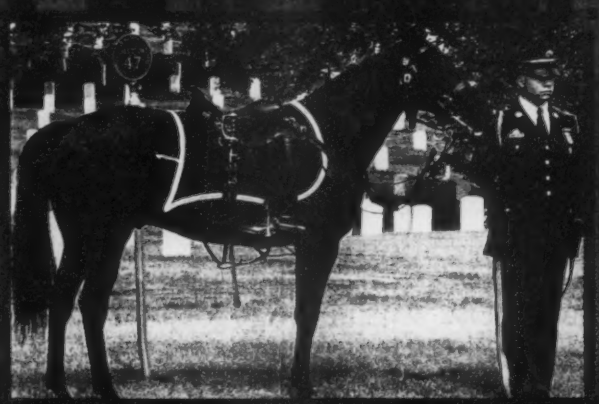
(Background) A horse-drawn caisson bears the flag-draped casket of Col. Bernard Taylor, Jr., to his final resting place at Arlington National Cemetery. (Above) A detail from the 3rd U.S. Infantry "Old Guard" serve as the pall-bearers for the funeral. (Below) A solemn tradition is the riderless horse with a pair of reversed boots in the stirrups, signifying a fallen commander.

something. Acting is for Hollywood.' He then proceeded to provide us his commander's guidance and vision."

Taylor was a graduate of the University of Akron and held a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Secondary Education. He also received a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Central Michigan University. His military education included the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Command and General Staff College and the Army War College.

He was commissioned from ROTC in 1970. He served at Fort Benning, Ga., from 1970 to 1972 as an Instructor at the U.S. Army Infantry School, and later as Executive Officer, 43d Company, 4th Student Battalion (Airborne).

Taylor joined the Army Reserve in 1972 and served in a number of Troop Program Units (TPU) positions to include Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 11th Special Forces Group (Airborne), and S-4, 11th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Meade, Md. In 1984, he joined the Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) program as S-4, 11th Special Forces Group (Airborne) where he served until 1988.



He served in subsequent AGR positions as Chief, Supply Branch, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, 81st U.S. Army Reserve Command, East Point, Ga.; Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, First United States Army, Fort Meade, Md.; Deputy Commander and Acting Commander, 7th United States Army Reserve Command and Commander, USAREUR Mobilization Support Center (UMSC) for Operation JOINT GUARD, Schwetzingen, Germany.

At the time of his selection as Deputy, Chief Army Reserve (IMA) in 1999, Taylor was serving as the Deputy Director for Plans, Operations and Logistics Automation, Office of Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Headquarters, Department of the Army, Washington, DC. His awards and decorations included the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal, the Master Parachutist Badge, Special Forces Tab, the Army Staff Identification Badge and the German Army Parachutist Badge (Bronze).

Taylor is survived by his wife, four children and five grandchildren.

(Lt. Col. Pullen is with the Public Affairs and Liaison Directorate, Office of the Chief, Army Reserve)

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ION MAY AFFECT THE QUALITY OF
HE MICROFORM EDITION.

No ordinary day at the beach

Training on land and at seashore

(Clockwise from left) Spc. Dana Rhodes, 680th Transportation Company (LX), from Chesapeake, Va., ties off a line to a bit on LARC LX-48 as the boat pulls alongside the USNS Fischer for loading. Spc. Stephen Stockton, also from the 680th, peers out from the top of the cab as he operates LX-48. Soldiers unload a container from a Lighter Amphibious Resupply Cargo (LARC) watercraft. Spc. Peter Jones, 19th Quartermaster Company, Fort Story, Va., directs a flatbed tractor-trailer at the beach site. Jones is an active-duty soldier from Shreveport, La. The crew of LX-48 helps guide a container onto their watercraft from the USNS Fischer.

Story & Photos by Staff Sgt. Jack Siemieniec

FORT STORY, Va.,– Its tires are nine-feet high, each with a 220-horsepower engine connected to it. It's 61-feet long and can hold 60 tons of cargo or up to 125 troops fully loaded for combat.

All during the month of June, these Lighter Amphibious Resupply Cargos, or LARCs, crashed through waves and put their tire tracks along the Virginia shore at Fort Story as part of the Transportation Logistics Over The Shore, TRANSLOTS, exercise.

The exercise brought together about 2,000 active duty and Army Reserve soldiers from Transportation, Quartermaster, Signal and Medical units.

According to Maj. Tim Collins, the operations officer with the 143rd Transportation Command, TRANSLOTS integrated two operations to simultaneously train in a variety of transportation skills.

The 143rd, from Orlando, Fla., was the exercise's executive agent for the U.S. Army Reserve Command and provided operational guidance.

"We had two locations. At Lambert's Point (along the west side of Norfolk) we replicated a CONUS seaport of embarkation and also practiced restricted port operations," Collins, from Phoenix, Ariz., explained.

Using the USNS Pollux, a Navy fast sealift ship, Collins said Army transportation soldiers uploaded it, using pier side operations. Also, Army watercraft were employed. The loaded Landing Craft Utility and Logistics Support Vessels brought cargo, whether containers, vehicles or other equipment, out of the James River, into Chesapeake Bay and out to Fort Story, where a bare beach site was constructed.

"Bare beach means there is no port facility whatsoever. You have to offload in stream (off shore). This replicated an OCONUS seaport of deembarkation," he said.

At the Fort Story bare beach site, soldiers from the active duty's 331st Transportation Company (MCS) constructed the modular causeway system. This is a 1,200-foot pier, capable of receiving the LSVs, LSUs and Landing Craft, Mechanized — Mike boats – which were then offloaded.

"This really enhanced the training," Collins said. "It gave the watercraft operators a lot of opportunity to practice their skills and gave truck operators the opportunity to ride with their vehicle on the watercraft and then transport it back to Lambert's."

The exercise actually ran two iterations of units during its June 3-23 dates of operation, Collins explained. Performing 24-hour operations from June 10-21, each rotation was evaluated over a 72-hour period on their skills. This allowed for a period of training and an overlap between

See TRANSLOTS, page 30

See related
story page 29

Engineers tackle Oklahoma rehab projects

(From left to Right) Sgt. 1st Class Rich Luebke, 1152d Trans. Railway Co., Minneapolis, Minn., uses a pair of tongs to drag a tie in place. Spec. Chris Goetz, from Fargo, N.D., uses a concrete saw to cut a set of steps at one of the ammunition storage facilties. Goetz is with the 461st Engineer Co. Rail lines are connected with joint bars. Sgt. Howard Day, 226th Trans. Railway Co., from St. Louis, Mo., signals bucket loader operator Pfc. Tim Baker, 226th, from Alton, Ill., as Baker dumps rock to set ties at rail site. Soldiers of the 757th Trans. Railway Battalion, of Milwaukee, Wis., set ties in place. Sgt. Francis Annala, with blue hard hat in foreground, and the rest of the crew from the 757th Trans. Railway Bn., from Milwaukee, Wisc., set some of the 700 feet of railway line in place. Annala is from Waterloo, Iowa, and serves in the 1152d Trans. Railway Co.

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Jack Siemieniec

McALESTER ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT, Okla.—Army Reserve engineers from Mississippi to Michigan to Montana recently descended on Oklahoma for Exercise Golden Kastle.

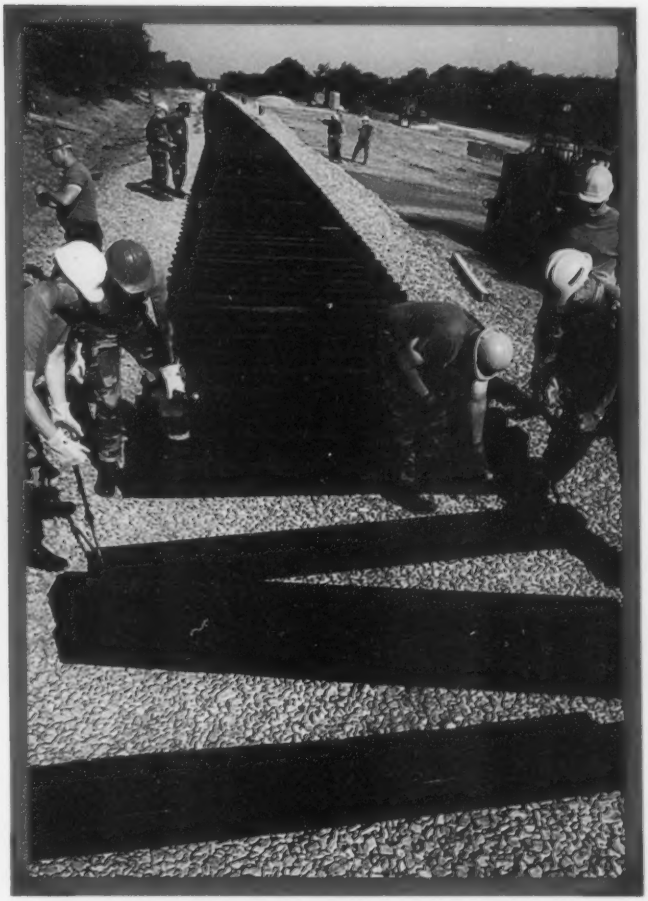
While in its third year at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, this was the first year — and first time ever, according to officials — Army Reserve engineer units worked as subcontractors for Army Corps of Engineers construction projects.

Previously, when units performed work on Army installations, they worked for and their funding came from the installation, as part of its Operations and Maintenance-Army accounts.

But this year at McAlester, much of the work is being paid for through Corps-supervised Military Construction-Army funds, said Mr. Aaron Smith, McAlester's chief of reserve affairs.

What this means for the Reservists is valuable training, said Sgt. 1st Class Tim Conley, senior construction supervisor with the 412th Engineer Command, headquartered in Vicksburg, Miss.

The 412th is the executive agent for the multi-year Golden Kastle series of exercises. As such, Conley said they identify which projects the Reserve can handle, coordinate which units will work them and allocate funding among the Reserve Support Commands.



"It's beneficial for the units because of the emphasis on quality control/quality assurance that comes with Corps of Engineers supervision. They have stringent requirements they have to meet and it helps the units see the benefits of QC/QA," Conley said.

The first members of the advance party for the exercise arrived at McAlester in late April and the last of the soldiers will close up for the summer in early August, Conley continued.

During that time, about 4,000 Reservists will pass through McAlester's more than 42,000 acres located in rural, southeastern Oklahoma. So rural that wild turkey and deer wander among its more than 2,400 explosive storage facilities. McAlester handles anything from 7.62 mm rounds to 5,000-pound bombs and much in between. The turtle-shell-like magazines stretch row after row, connected by road and rail line.

These magazines, roads and rails are the focus of the engineers this summer.

According to Staff Sgt. Chuck Gondeiro, the assistant operations noncommissioned officer with the 379th Engineer Battalion, from Missoula, Mont., the mission is to rehab the loading docks and widen access roads at 38 of the bunkers.

Along with these Corps projects, the work schedule includes a rail reconstruction job funded by the installation.

Hawaii Reservists 'bui

By Spc. Stacie Mitschke

CAMP ZAMA, Japan—Army Reserve soldiers left their jobs and homes in Hawaii recently and flew several thousand miles with their equipment to Japan for annual training.

Once the 25 soldiers from the 411th Engineer Battalion's Alpha Company arrived, they were divided into three work groups, and given a task to accomplish during their two-week stay. The group was to make improvements to the post and give the Directorate Engineer - Troop Labor of Public Works free help—and help they did.

The three projects were: a new wall in the 296th Army Band rehearsal hall, a new wall in Building 101, and a new slab and sidewalk at the Provost Marshal's building.

Within a week, each project had been nearly completed.

They begin with pouring the foundation of a new cement slab behind vehicle registration.

"Our first goal is to complete the mission," 411th Company Commander Capt. Kenneth Jennings said. "Our second, is for the troops to improve their construction skills."

In preparation for a hostile situation, the battalion has performed construction in several places across the Pacific area.

It is important for the 411th to maintain this training because their combat mission would be to build base camps, bridges, roads, etc., according to Jennings.

"We take the reserves very seriously," 411th construction supervisor Staff Sgt. Mel Mizukami, said. "The best part is that everybody's getting hands-on experience. A carpenter learns how to build things with his hands. A business job is much different than this. Doing these projects, we're more in tune with things, no matter what our civilian jobs are."

"Being engineers, we're ready for just about anything," he added. "This training gives the soldiers more confidence that they can do the job."

Despite the fact that they finished the projects before their deadline,

ld' reputation in Japan

one factor did play a challenging role in the way they did things for the first week.

"The hardest thing is that the tools we were supposed to have to work on the projects got lost on the way here, so it was hard to get the job done with limited tools," Mizukami said.

However, after being found at Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa, the tools were shipped back to Camp Zama to arrive Monday.

Although the company consists of soldiers with a variety of professions, the majority of them have carpentry-related jobs in their civilian lives. This extra experience not only helped get the projects done faster, but also in training other soldiers who are not as familiar with carpentry.

In addition to the variety of professions among the battalion, they also come from different places such as Maui and Hawaii.

"Coming from different islands, we did not know each others' abilities," Staff Sgt. Frederick Nava, 411th carpenter mason said. "This project will show readiness and get our guys to work as a team."

"Most soldiers are carpenters by trade, so that makes it much easier," he added. "Most of us have been doing it for so long, it's like tying your shoelaces."

"It makes the job a lot easier working with experienced people, and it makes the training a lot better. I'm learning new tricks and I can teach the soldiers below me. It's all about learning our job so we can do it better," said 411th Carpenter Mason Sgt. Peter Mangaoang, who is a farmer in the civilian world.

"It's fun," he added. "It's almost like a hobby to me. I like to build things and by doing projects like this, I may be able to learn how to build my own house."

After all of the work is done for the day, the soldiers have time to explore the country.

"I wish other people could experience what we are experiencing," Sgt. Roy Moririyesu, 411th carpenter mason said. "We're in a foreign country, and we're learning about the culture. That's something a lot of others don't have the chance to do."

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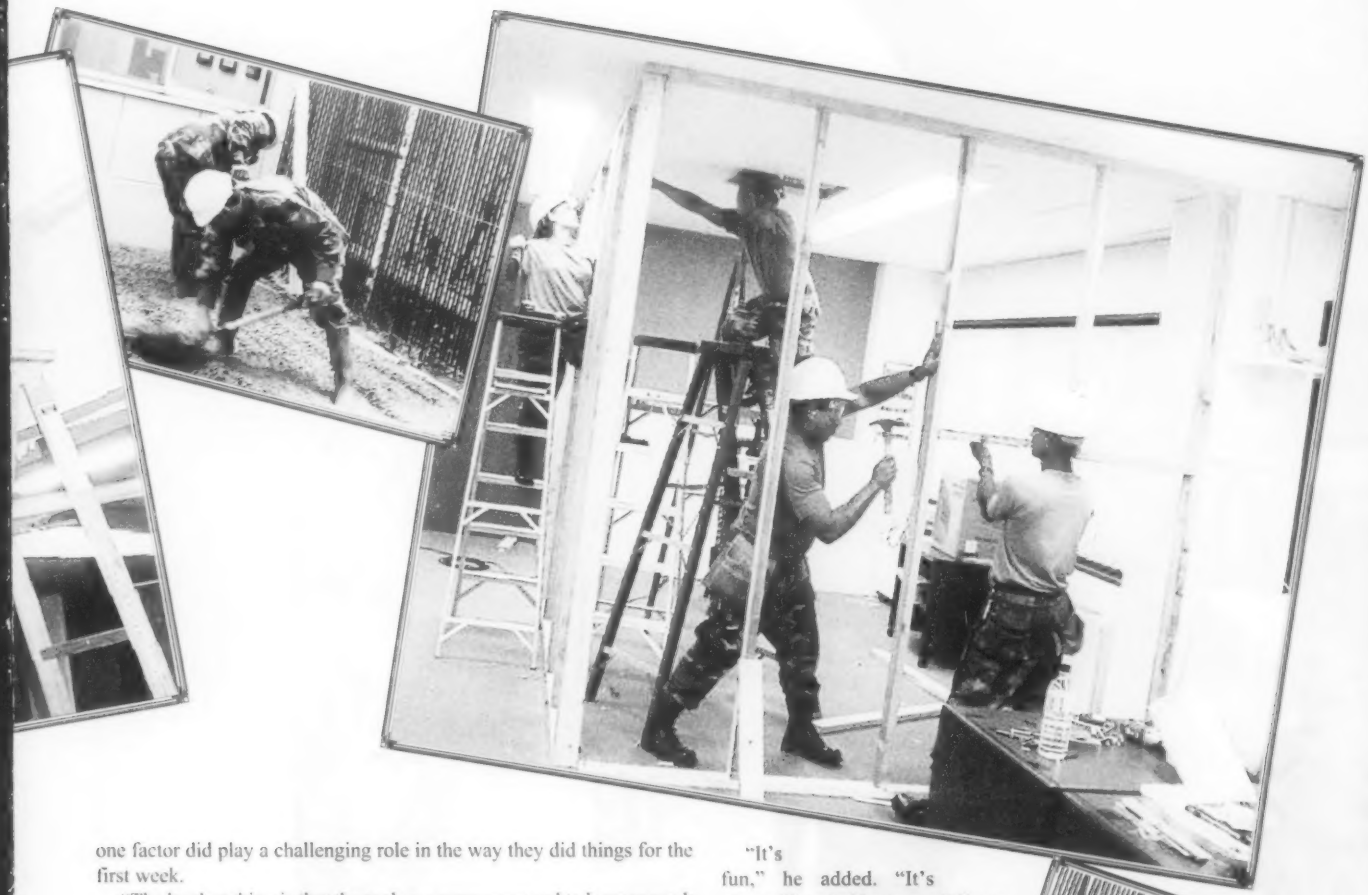

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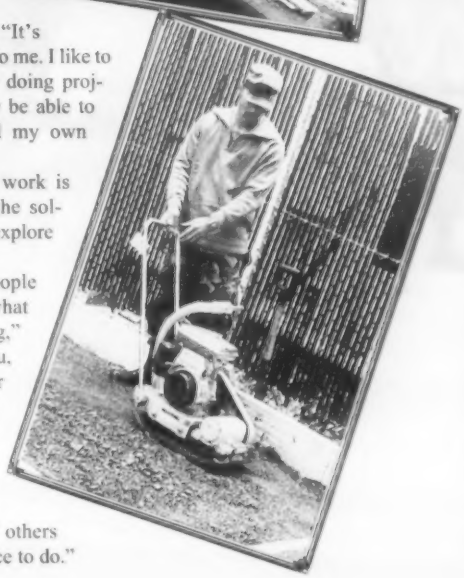

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Mass destruction exercise

2nd Training Support Brigade Reservists put

Story and photos by Maj. Jayna M. Legg

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—The call came in to the Abeville 911 dispatcher just after midnight March 21, shattering the otherwise quiet night in the tiny central Illinois hamlet. Two police officers were down at the fairgrounds, one dead, the other severely wounded and unconscious. The suspects sped off in a pickup truck, abandoning a clandestine laboratory and jettisoning two 55-gallon drums filled with an unknown substance.

Within minutes, the first emergency responders on the scene experienced dizziness, burning sensations in their eyes and throats and blurred vision. They were quickly evacuated to the Abeville General Hospital, and hazardous materials specialists and firefighters from nearby Springfield were called in to assist. By the time they arrived to seal off the area, a dozen local residents had frantically called the hospital, complaining about mysterious symptoms.

Less than an hour after the bloodshed, it was obvious the situation was beyond the capabilities of the local emergency management personnel. They needed help. It was time to call in the experts, thus beginning the weapons of mass destruction exercise. The exercise would provide an elite Illinois National Guard unit its last formal evaluation before being deemed by the U.S. Congress as capable of responding to incidents of domestic terrorism.

The task of putting members of the 5th Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team through their paces in Springfield went to "observer-controllers" from the Fort McCoy, Wis.-based 2nd Training Support

members of civil support team through their paces

(Clockwise) Sgt. Patrick Greenwood, of the 5th WMD/CST, dons his protective gear before entering a "hot zone" during an evaluation of the elite Guard unit in Springfield, Ill. Survey team members from the CST enter the decontamination lane after exiting the "hot zone." A 2nd Brigade observer-controller looks on in the background. Maj. Scott Swinford, 5th WMD/CST Deputy Commander, (right) helps survey team members check out their equipment before they go "down range" to collect samples of biological, radiological and/or nuclear contaminants. Col. Rick Fink (pictured on left), commander of the 2nd Brigade, 85th Div. (TS), observes as civilian Incident Commander Frank Edwards (center) and Lt. Col. Alicia Tate-Nadeau, commander of the 5th WMD/CST, discuss the terrorist scenario with Tom Faulkner on the first day of the exercise. Faulkner and Edwards are Springfield, Ill. firefighters who assumed the roles of civilian first responders during the three-day evaluation.

Brigade, of the Army Reserve's 85th Division (Training Support). Additionally, hazardous material and chemical detection equipment experts from First Army – the higher headquarters for both the trainers and the CST – were on hand to assist the 2nd Brigade.

From researching the unit's high-profile federal mission to orchestrating the intricate, real-life scenarios also known as lanes, to grading the Guard team's every action during this and other evaluation exercises, the 2nd Brigade observer-controllers are responsible to ensure the CST can fulfill its real-world mission of assisting civilian authorities to protect citizens from terrorist incidents.

"This gives us an opportunity to work together – for this one exercise we're bringing together the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), the CST, the fire department, state police, fairgrounds security, the Guard and our training support brigade from the Reserves," said Col. Rick Fink, 2nd Brigade commander. "And we have representatives from the local community. These are the same folks this team will work with if there is a real incident."

When the decision was made in Abeville to call in the experts, 73 miles away, in Bartonville, Ill., the phone rang in the home of Lt. Col. Alicia Tate-Nadeau. After just over a year of leading her unit through intense, highly specialized training, it was the call she was ready for. She sprang into action, alerting the 5th WMD/CST for deployment. Before the sun rose on Abeville, her 22-person CST was at work, setting up a decontamination point and preparing to investigate the poison seeping into the neighborhood outside the secret rebel militia lab.

The 5th WMD/CST currently is one of only ten such military units in the nation expected to be certified this year. The teams - based in New York, Colorado, California, Georgia, Massachusetts, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Texas and the state of Washington as well as Illinois – are made up of full-time Guardsmen and women. They were mandated two years ago by Congress in the wake of the Oklahoma City and World Trade Center bombings, and other terrorist incidents around the world, including the poisonous gas attack in a Tokyo subway. The federal government has spent approximately $70 million to man and arm the teams with high-tech laboratory and communications equipment. The current federal budget includes $75 million more for the program to create 17 more teams in the nation's largest urban areas.

"We're in the final steps," said Air Force Col. Jay Steinmetz, who was on hand for the exercise at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield from the Secretary of Defense-level office that has oversight for the CST program. "It's been 14 months, and it's gone better than planned in many cases. Normally this process (of fielding a new military unit) takes four years, and there wasn't a unit like them that existed, so that's a phenomenal accomplishment."

When all 27 CSTs are certified, there will be a team in place within 250 miles of more than 90 percent of the U.S. population, said Steinmetz, the director of the Consequence Management Program Integration Office. "And for most of the population, about 75 percent, a

See MASS next page

team will be located within 150 miles, so that allows us to respond quickly to populated areas."

Because the teams are assigned to the Guard, state governors have the authority to mobilize them to respond to biological, nuclear or radiological incidents, where the CSTs have the mission of "assessing, advising and facilitating further action."

The important job of training the CSTs went to Reserve training support brigades like the 85th Division's 2nd Brigade, Steinmetz said, "because of the traditional relationship the training support brigades have with the National Guard and because of their connection to military support to civil authorities."

"The most important thing to realize is that this unit requires a lot of assets to exercise," Tate-Nadeau said during one of several interviews with members of the press during the three-day exercise, "and we just flat couldn't do it without the assistance of 2nd Brigade evaluators and the first responders.

"It's real important to talk about the multi-component piece of this," added Tate-Nadeau, who before she took command of the 5th WMD/CST, helped develop the concept for the CSTs while serving in the Army Reserve. "We try to leverage the strength of the Army Reserve through its training support brigades and chemical units … We have to train with these other components, we are just one small part of a large picture."

By mid-morning on the first day of the three-day evaluation exercise, CST survey team members began preparing to enter the contaminated area. In a tent down range from the "hot zone," the three-man team "Freedom" donned protective gear using a buddy system. Members of the second survey team – who call themselves "Independence" - served as the "buddies," calling out loud each step of the process as they handed over protective glasses, hoods, hydration and breathing equipment, and the blue plastic "A suits" that would protect the surveyors. In the background, 2nd Brigade observer-controller Sgt. 1st Class Greg Carson took notes, checking off a list of tasks mounted on a clipboard.

Photo by Maj. Jayne Lee

Upper left, Sgt. 1st Class Greg Carson, of the Army Reserve 2nd Brigade, 85th Division (Training Support), observes as members of the Illinois National Guard 5th Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team go through a decontamination lane as part of their final evaluation before being certified by Congress. To Carson's right, civilian first responders from the Springfield, Ill. Fire Department and subject matter experts from First Army look on.

"I'm watching their survey and decontamination operations, seeing if they follow their mission training plan, collective tasks, standard operating procedures and meet the standard," said Carson, who has been an observer-controller for two years. "This is very unique – their role with civilian authorities, and their specialized equipment. And they are home-based. It's a new concept for the nation.

Carson followed close behind as the Freedom team carefully made its way toward the hot zone, pushing a wheelbarrow stocked with specialized equipment to monitor, test and collect contaminated liquids and samples of other biological or radiological materials. Meanwhile, other CST members worked quickly to set up the outdoor decontamination lane the survey team would go through after leaving the hot zone. And CST communications specialists established the satellite phone and computer links that would allow the unit to process and pass on the information gathered by the survey teams to experts at government agencies like the Defense Intelligence Agency and Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

The advantage of lane training - the type of training the CST received from 2nd Brigade - Carson said, is the observer-controllers are able to evaluate specific tasks, which are agreed on ahead of time by the observer-controllers and commanders of the units being trained. "You can narrow the objective," he said. "You can focus on the battle tasks you are contracted to look at."

The cornerstone of the evaluation process that pairs "go-to-war" units with the Reserve observer-controllers is the ongoing relationship that develops between the two sides. The Springfield exercise was the fourth time 2nd Brigade trained with the Guard CST.

"We've been working on this exercise for about seven months," said Maj. Terry Rausch, of 2nd Brigade, who oversaw most of the detailed preparations, right down to setting up the rebel militia lab.

Colored liquids in test tubes and flasks, a microscope and slides, fictitious propaganda made to look like it was created by the militia members, terrorist manuals, an ashen-faced mannequin sprawled the floor, even a laptop computer with a chemical formula showing on its screen, were among the many props Rausch and other 2nd Brigade members put in place to add realism to the lane.

At the end of each phase of the training, 2nd Brigade observer-controllers conducted another key part of the evaluation process - after action reviews. After gathering detailed input from all his observer-controllers and subject matter experts, Fink and his staff prepared a polished, two-hour, multi-media presentation outlining the results of the evaluation for the entire CST and everyone else involved in the exercise.

"This is a world-class after action review," said Maj. Gen. Alan D. Johnson, deputy commanding general First Army (North), at the close of the final AAR. "This is truly a team effort … you are pioneers …You are here to support the bigger picture, and to alleviate pain and suffering ... Without a doubt, this is one of the finest CSTs fielded, and my hat's off to Col. Fink and the training support brigade - wonderful job."

The CST evaluation may be the 2nd Brigade's highest profile mission

See MASS, page 31

USAR units strut their stuff for Canadian Reservists

By Pvt. 2 LaTorry D. Sidney

FORT GORDON, Ga—Consequence Management 2000 (CM 2000), an exercise designed to evaluate the preparedness of military and civilian response teams in emergency and mass casualty situations, has not only attracted local attention, but international interest as well.

A prime example is the arrival of Col. M.L. Quinn, Canadian Army Reserve. Quinn, advisor to Director General Health Services with the Canadian Forces Medical Group, arrived at Fort Gordon May 17 to observe some of the training techniques utilized at CM 2000.

"We're on a fact-finding mission," said Quinn. "What we're doing is building up a new capability within the Canadian Army Reserve. I represent the medical element and we're trying to see how the United States Army is handling the situation. For us, this is an opportunity to view what the U.S. is thinking."

"Essentially, we want to know some of the possible problems the U.S. military foresees, so, like any good neighbor, we can help to develop solutions. Our goal is to network to see how we can help others. Being neighbors, we have the opportunity to help each other out when needed."

The main purpose of Consequence Management training is to assess how military response teams coordinate with civilian teams in weapons of mass destruction and other mass casualty situations, such as terrorist attacks or natural disasters.

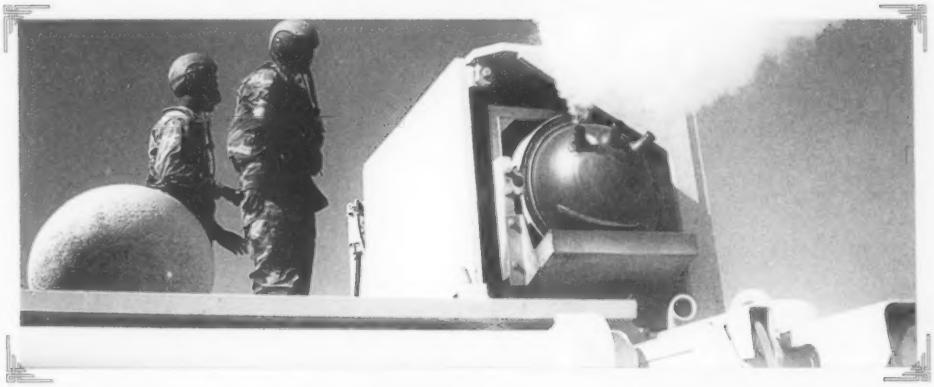
Quinn commented that the Canadian Reserve looks to improve the versatility of its response teams to encompass a wide area of possible situations. " We look at different threats," she said. " While the majority of the time, the terrorist threats the United States faces are not direct threats to Canada, we have to remain informed due to our proximity to the U.S."

Nuclear, biological, and chemical contamination is one possible factor in creating a mass casualty situation. "Right now we don't have a capability to handle such a situation (nuclear, biological, chemical) because we think the threat is pretty low," said Quinn. "but the threat definitely exists, even if it's a small one."

According to Quinn, the task of establishing response teams with the capability to handle weapons of mass destruction incidents has yet to be finalized. "The planning stage is in its infancy," said Quinn. "We're looking at, in the future, possibly coming down to gather experience, take a few courses, do a couple of small-unit exchanges, and basically, gather information."

Overall, the visit was a successful one, according to Quinn, who said, "We want to make sure that we (the U.S. and Canada) remain the best of allies, and participating in exercises like this is the best way to do it."
(Pvt. Sidney is with the 300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Ft. McPherson, Ga.)

Soldier ensures smoke gets in the enemy's eyes



Sgt. Darrelas K. London, driver, 92nd Chemical Bn., Little Rock, Ark., along with generator operator, Sgt. Quincy Jackson, 360th Chemical Company, Lubbock, Texas, keep an eye on the smoke generator during Roving Sands 2000 at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Story and photo by Sgt. Melanie K. Patterson

FORT BLISS, Texas – The Army Reserve pays Jesus D. Ortega to blow smoke.

A quartermaster repairman with the 369th Chemical Company, 90th Regional Support Command, El Paso, Texas, Sgt. Ortega and his comrades have the unique job of producing billows of white smoke on the battlefield. Soldiers from the 360th Chemical Company, East Candor, Ark., are also temporarily attached to the unit.

The main purpose of the mass-produced smoke is to provide concealment for troop and equipment movements.

According to Ortega, it's a fairly simple process: The soldiers put "fog oil" into smoke generators that are mounted on armored personnel carriers. When the oil heats up, it produces clouds of smoke.

One drawback is the unit can not control where the smoke goes. The soldiers must pay close attention to the wind, and place the smoke generators in the best position to provide cover for troops.

"If the wind changes, we just have to adjust," said Ortega.

This year, the 369th trained for the first time with active duty soldiers during Roving Sands 2000. The unit was attached to the 31st Air Defense Artillery Bde., Fort Bliss, during the exercise.

"It's kind of nice working with the active duty component," said Staff Sgt. Mark R. Vasquez, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the unit. "We have real targets, so we can see what we're hitting."

An obvious question is, if these men and women are producing a massive white fog, aren't they announcing the presence of the very troops they're trying to hide?

Ortega says, "We can provide cover from as far away as six miles." He said his unit sometimes provides smoke solely for the purpose of throwing the enemy off in order to protect U.S. troops.
(Sgt. Patterson is with the 314th Press Camp Headquarters, Birmingham, Ala.)

Photo by Pvt. Latorry Sidney

Prepar

Photos by Spc. Jenna Bis

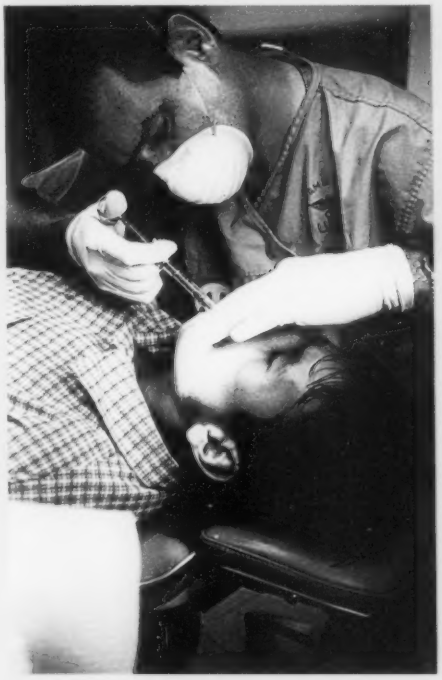
ring for disaster

Bisenius

(Clockwise from top) A wounded soldier is helped away from the site of a mock explosion by an Augusta Regional Fire Department fireman during a terrorism response training scenario . A casualty role-player is assisted by a member of the decon team. Medical personnel go into action at the site of a mock explosion. A casualty role-player is processed through the decontamination site. Decon team members check the status of a mock victim. A Ft. Gordon firefighter evacuates a victim from the scene of a mock chemical explosion. Members of the 326th Chemical Company, Huntsville, Ala., process a mock casualty through triage.

See related stories pages 21 & 26

Dental units train on Indian Reservation



Staff Sgt. Alisha K. Crain, 965th, prepares a mold for a set of dentures at Pine Ridge Hospital. (Below) Maj. Louis D. Kavetski, 965th Medical Company (Dental), Mesquite, Texas, gives a shot to Darrell Apple before pulling teeth at Manderson, which is on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, S.D.

Story and photos by Sgt. Melanie K. Patterson

PINE RIDGE INDIAN RESERVATION, S.D. – Darrell Apple, 15, looked scared as a soft-spoken dentist patiently told him what to expect after he pulls two of Apple's teeth.

"Will I feel anything?" he asked the doctor, Maj. Louis D. Kavetski, 965th Medical Company (Dental), Mesquite, Texas. Kavetski, of Palestine, Texas, assured the boy he would feel no pain, then he and dental assistant Spc. Bridget M. Sadler, 965th, of Tyler, Texas, worked together to extract the teeth.

Apple was one of hundreds of patients to be treated by the 965th; the 907th Medical Company (Dental), Albuquerque, New Mexico; and the 337th Medical Company (Dental), New Orleans, La. during exercise Walking Shield 2000.

Seventy-two Army Reservists - including dentists, dental assistants and support personnel - are staffing five dental sites in the area, giving free dental care to the different divisions of the Sioux tribe who live on the reservation.

"This exercise is very beneficial, not only to us, but to the population," said Kavetski. "We get training not only for dentistry, but we get exposed to various cultures."

Other soldiers are using their work here to gain experience for their future careers in the dental field. Spc. Jaclyn L. Garcia, 907th, of Albuquerque, is in school to become a dental hygienist. She will get points toward her degree from her Reserve experience.

Sgt. Keith E. Basham, 907th, Albuquerque, is majoring in zoology and microbiology at the University of New Mexico. He is getting hands-on experience by working side-by-side with the Reserve doctors at the dental clinic in Manderson. "I'm learning to diagnose by looking at patients," Basham said.

He's also learning to read X-rays, read charts, work with hygienists and use their instruments. "You pick up lots of little tidbits you can't learn until you do it," he said, such as seeing the varying styles of doctors and figuring out which tools work best for different surgeries.

About 30 miles away, another group of soldiers worked in the dental department at the Pine Ridge hospital. "The first day we opened up, about 90 people were waiting in line in the first 30 minutes," said Sgt. 1st Class Steve M. Martin, 965th, of Coppers Cove, Texas. "It breaks our hearts, but we've been having to turn people away."

An unusual aspect of this year's exercise is the on-site laboratory the soldiers set up at the hospital. "The real shining crown jewel of this mission is the lab," said Martin.

At the lab, two senior dental lab technicians with the 965th, Staff Sgt. Alisha K. Crain of Paris, Texas and Staff Sgt. Dewayne M. Norris of Mesquite, made partials, bridges and dentures. "A full set of dentures is usually thousands of dollars," said Martin, "but we're glad to be able offer them here free."

In a tent outside the hospital, three other 965th soldiers, Staff Sgt. David L. Moore of Fort Worth, Texas; 1st Sgt. Rob A. Greer of Live Oak, Texas; and 1st Lt. David J. Laing of Flagstaff, Arizona, also worked long hours grinding and shaping dentures.

The men and women didn't seem to mind the long hours of work helping the people here. "The patients here have just been great," said Martin.

Kavetski summed it up while explaining to Apple's mother, Connie Apple of Manderson, the boy's options (pulling the teeth or having a root canal). "We're not here to tell you what to do, we're here to serve you."

(Sgt. Patterson is with the 314th Press Camp Headquarters, Birmingham, Ala.)

Lucky Sentinel

Kuwaiti wartime mission supported by Reservists

By Lt. Col. Michael Bendich

Sgt. Erin Riordan

(Left) Members of the 377th TSC discuss the day's activities in front of an APC. (Below) Site of Camp Doha, Kuwait compound.

CAMP DOHA, Kuwait—The 377th Theater Support Command (TSC), an Army reserve unit out of New Orleans, La., was at it again this past April when it converged on Kuwait and Camp Doha with more than 100 soldiers to participate in exercise Lucky Sentinel.

Following a rigorous 24-hour flight through eight time zones, the unit entered Kuwaiti airspace aboard a chartered commercial airliner. A fighter jet escort saw them safely down in the pre-dawn darkness.

After landing, they were greeted and given protection by heavily-armed soldiers—carried on the next leg of their journey aboard busses with drawn curtains and tinted windows to Camp Doha, some 60 miles from the Iraqi border.

Such were the beginnings of a 14-day exercise to test combat readiness and deployment capabilities. The soldiers of the 377th were among over 1,300 U.S. troops to join a much larger multinational force comprised of units from Kuwait, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

The mission of the 377th was to provide logistical and combat service support to other Army units, inner service assistance to other branches (Air Force, Navy and Marines) and coalition support to military activities of foreign countries participating in coalition operations. Specifically, the 377th is tasked with providing supplies, services, equipment, force protection, personnel and finance management to soldiers participating in contingency operations in support of Army Central Command (ARCENT).

This Reserve unit is increasingly being called upon to take an active role in developing contingency plans in support of ARCENT and to various Southwest Asia missions. Throughout the 14 days in the oil-rich Arab nation, 377th soldiers faced extreme heat, cultural difficulties and the language barrier. These conditions provided an ideal setting to test the skills developed during weekend drills.

With the Iraqi border so near, the reality of performing in an actual combat zone emphasized the importance of the exercise.

"Because of the downsizing, Reservists are being asked to contribute more and more," said Maj. Gen. Michael T. Gaw, the Commanding General. "We are going to set a standard that others can follow."

During a real-world deployment, the 377th TSC would be required to support up to 500,000 troops.

"The military has us in a trusted position, and we are both honored and challenged at the same time," Gaw noted.

Col. Henry Moak, the 377th TSC Operations Officer, stated, "You are here to learn what to do if you are ever called on to go to war. Take it seriously. You are now playing for real. If we don't know our jobs, people die."

Many of the veteran soldiers found the area to be business as usual but some first timers experienced moments of anxiety and uncertainty.

Despite this, these Louisiana Army Reservists proved they were an elite group, providing combat troops with operational and life support supplies in one of the most hostile environments on earth.

Warrant Officer 4 James Sartwell, the chief full time representative for the 377th said, "You physically get to see the land and have a better understanding of working with the people of Kuwait. Soldiers have the opportunity to adjust to the environment and realize it is more than just an exercise. It makes it real."

The decision to entrust this crucial role to the 377th was made approximately two years ago. The leadership saw the 377th as an activity with a large contingent of experienced soldiers having a wealth of knowledge and skills gained on active duty during the Gulf War, Vietnam and other operations.

"In the early '80s, the unit was involved in a series of Middle East exercises," noted Gaw. "They were already aligned to support this particular part of the world."

The 377th's lineage dates back to the D-Day invasion of World War II. They have been involved in Exercise Bright Star in Egypt, which has been conducted every two years since 1985 and the unit sent about 100 soldiers to help with clean up assistance after the Gulf War as well.

As the federal defense budget continues to dwindle, Reserve units such as the 377th will be tasked to take on more and more responsibilities. Many soldiers are asked to participate in more than their contractual obligation of one weekend a month and two weeks of active duty per year. Some soldiers perform up to 29 days of annual training a year plus extra weekends and nights in preparation for training opportunities such as Lucky Sentinel.

(Lt. Col. Bendich the Public Affairs Officer for the 377th Theater Support Command)

Cobra Gold

Signal company helps units "reach out and touch" other units

For an Army Reserve unit participating in a joint exercise, communication is critical.

(Left) Staff Sgt. Arron Tilton, Staff Sgt. Eric Javier, Spc. Jason Tandal, Sgt. Bryant Watson and Pfc. Ryan Sharpe wire phone equipment. (Below) Staff Sgt. Tilton, Staff Sgt. Javier and Spec. Tandal lay wire inside the headquarter's building. (Bottom) Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Grant, Staff Sgt. Adren Kela, Sgt. Thomas McVea hold a meeting inside a central office switch or TTC-39, which provides the Joint Task Force with telephones.

Story & photos by Spc. Daisy Bueno

NAKHON SI THAMMARAT, Thailand— An integral part in any deployment is communications. Service members must be able to communicate with each other to get the mission accomplished, and for an Army Reserve unit participating in a joint exercise, communication is critical.

U.S. Armed Forces, both active and reserve, worked jointly in ensure smooth, efficient communications at Exercise Cobra Gold 2000. Across the street from the Combined/Joint Task Force building, the Joint Communication Control Center engineers, managed and controlled all communication circuits and systems. It is responsible for installing, operating, and maintaining communication links for the entire exercise.

The 804th Signal Company, an Army Reserve unit from Fort Shafter, Hawaii, primarily supported unit and exercise commanders with telephone communications. Soldiers from the 804th installed cable and wiring in the buildings to allow service members to communicate with other units in the exercise and their home bases.

"I'm proud that we're part of this exercise and are able to come out here and support the communication part of the exercise," said Army Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Grant, operations noncommissioned officer for the 804th. "Being from a Reserve unit, we like to be here with the active components," he said.

The 804th deployed 27 soldiers to Thailand who supplied the CJTF Commander and his staff with more than 250 tactical phones with connectivity throughout Thailand and to the US. The unit also employed the tactical switching equipment and phones and phone installers for the duration of the exercise and for the first time in Cobra Gold's history, connected and successfully interfaced with their Royal Thai Signal counterparts.

The 7th Communication Battalion's Support Company, 3rd Marine Division, based at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, provided a satellite link to Fort Buckner, Okinawa, Japan, and another communication team in northern Thailand. This year the unit added video teleconferencing to its repertoire.

The 112th Special Operations Signal Battalion out of Fort Bragg, N.C., is the only signal battalion that supports joint special operations missions. They deploy in a smaller force with a minimum amount of equipment.

"My switch (a controller for telephones) is different because it provides secure and nonsecure voice communication, data communication through the Internet, as well as video teleconferencing," said Army Sgt. Alen Shulze, switch team chief for the 112th.

Although these signal units have different missions during Cobra Gold, there is one thing have in common: the effects of weather.

See COBRA, page 31

Cable Dogs' track training

Story and photo by Pfc. Engels Tejeda

FORT DIX, N.J.—Thirty feet off the ground, supported by nothing but a safety belt and a plastic bucket, the "Cable Dog" begins his task.

Maintaining a stable balance, Spc. Luke H. Overstreet drills a hole into the dry cable pole, pushes the bolts and cable hooks into place, and gives the "ready" signal to his fellow soldiers below.

Overstreet is one of 13 soldiers from the 301st Signal Company, Black Stone, Va., who performed annual training at Ft. Dix.

He said his mission was clear and precise: To ensure that the poles were ready for several feet of cable to be laid out by a sister unit.

The cable to be laid is telephone cable that will allow soldiers training in the 8 and 900 areas to hook directly into the Fort Dix phone system, according to Bud Streeter, telephone communications specialist for the post's Directorate of Information Management.

"If the soldiers weren't here to help, we'd have to go to contract," Streeter said. "It also gives them a great opportunity to practice their primary skills. They were here last year, and it worked out great."

Sgt. Walter L. Jones, a 301st Signal "Cable Dog" from Ft. Pickett, Va., prepares to splice cable for improved communications service at Fort Dix.

In addition to saving money by not having to contract with a civilian company for the work, stringing the telephone wire from Building 5321 - the telephone hub - to the field will make training better for future units, Streeter said.

Taking his task as serious as that of an infantryman, the 20-year-old Overstreet described the importance of his job.

"During wartime, it's important for us to set up the wiring system, [without which] effective communication cannot be achieved," he says, as he gets ready to prepare another pole.

The unit was held responsible for preparing 20 poles per day, a task considered strenuous by civilian companies in related fields.

But regardless of how difficult the task might be, it had to be accomplished, said Sgt. 1st Class. Lenco Agnew, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the team.

"The 301st acts professionally indeed, said Agnew. "My soldiers feel as competent as any civilian company when it comes to accomplishing the task. A civilian cable man would practice the task on a daily basis, but soldiers from the 301st only see the bucket every once in a while."

From teaching to social work, members of the 301st hold a large variety of civilian occupations. Overstreet, for instance, dedicates most of his time to earning a bachelors degree in computer science at the acclaimed Virginia Technical Institute.

As per the annual training the unit is obtaining, Overstreet said "it is realistic and is definitely preparing me for the battle field." After 14 days of work, the 13 "cable dogs" will return to their civilians lives, not to see the bucket again until one more training weekend, or until their nation calls them to the line of duty.

"When the country calls," said Overstreet, "we'll be ready."

(Pfc. Tejeda is with the 358th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Salt Lake City, Utah)

Army's 'Ma Bell' answers call

By Sgt. Melanie K. Patterson

FORT BLISS, Texas – They are part of a communications network referred to as the "Ma Bell of the Army," and they make military exercises functional in 27 locations throughout the United States, including seven Army Reserve exercises.

They are the 355th Theater Signal Command from East Point, Ga.

"This is the first time we tied all the exercises together like they would be in a combat zone," said the 355th's.

Four brigades that fall under the 355th TSC (the 93rd, 11th, 228th and 359th Signal Brigades) plus 15 Army Reserve units and 35 active, National Guard, Air Force and Marine Corps units are working together to support the exercises. They run the system that simultaneously provides data, voice and video-teleconference networks for the exercises.

"We have 35,000 subscribers nationwide," said Brainard, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the Joint Communication Control Center here. Subscribers include Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, German, British, Canadian and Dutch units.

"We allow the war fighters to fight, the medics to evacuate casualties, the transportation unit to pull ships offshore," Brainard said. "We also support units learning to shoot airplanes and missiles out of the sky, and the units learning to fly through that."

"It takes a lot of people with a lot of skills to make everything work at the same time," he added.

Spc. Kevin G. Henderson and Spc. Devina L. Davis, Reservists with the 355th TSC, assist in the mission by staffing the help desk for the Information System Services Office. "People call us with problems with the network or the computers," said Davis, who as a civilian is a legal assistant in Atlanta, Ga.

"This makes my civilian job easier," said Henderson, a La Grange, Ga., native who repairs software and hardware for a Georgia company. "The training we get here is more high-tech. A lot of times, I get (a repair problem) at work that I learned to deal with in the Army."

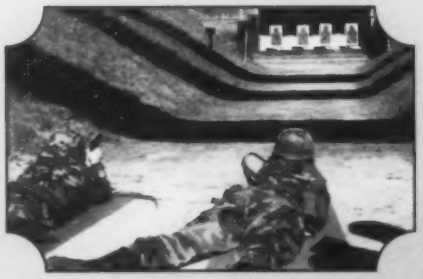
Of the more than 3,000 soldiers participating here, 78 percent are Army Reservists and 22 percent are active duty troops.

"We couldn't do this mission without the (Army) Reserve soldiers," said Brainard, an active duty soldier. "We wouldn't even attempt it."

(Sgt. Melanie K. Patterson is with the 314th Press Camp Headquarters, Birmingham, Ala.)

7th ARCOM

Saluting European-based



Photos by Lt. Col. Burt Masters

HHC, 7th Army Reserve Command soldiers qualify at the Heidelberg, Germany rifle and pistol range during annual training.

The 7th Army Reserve Command is the only forward-stationed Reserve command in the U.S. Army.

Headquartered at Tompkins Barracks, Schwetzingen, Germany, the command consists of 23 units and almost 900 citizen-soldiers throughout Germany and in Vicenza, Italy. Supporting these drilling reservists and units is a cadre of active-guard reserve soldiers (AGR), active duty soldiers, military technicians, and civilians who provide the full-time support needed for unit and individual training and readiness.

The European-based 7th ARCOM provides U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) with trained and ready units to support USAREUR's contingency operations, deployments, and major training events.

Soldiers assigned to 7th ARCOM's 330th Rear Operations Center (Kaiserslautern) conduct training at the Combat Maneuver Training Center Hohenfels, Germany. The unit provided rear operations support to the Southern European Task Force.

Photos by Lt. Col. Burt Masters

Army Reservists

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Geoffrey Carter

7th ARCOM senior enlisted soldiers during ANCOC, conducted by the 3747th Training Brigade (Provisional) in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

Photos by Lt. Col. Burt Masters

Various 7th ARCOM units participate at V Corps' Warfighter Exercise, Urgent Victory 2000 in Grafenwoehr, Germany. Reserve soldiers provided rear area operations, logistics staff augmentation and personnel replacement operations in support of V Corps.

Unit gives 'support' new meaning

Photos by Maj. Ronald Lane

(Left) Providing deploying units advice on moving is a key mission of the 1394th. Soldiers supervised by Sgt. Juan Navarro are loading rail cars at Fort Polk, La. (Bottom). Soldiers with the 1394th Deployment Support Brigade work in snow and ice to load construction vehicles on rail cars at Brinard, Minn., in January 1998.

By Maj. Ronald Lane

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.—As military organizations go, you would be hard pressed to find one more innovative than the 1394th Deployment Support Brigade.

The Army Reserve unit located at Camp Pendleton, Calif., has its own set of unique standards. On the one hand, unit members want to be the equal of their full-time active duty Army counterparts. They also want to use Internet technology to achieve the maximum lift.

Consider the unit's achievements:

The unit has a deployment support team ready at all times to support the movements of the Military Traffic Management Command. Coordinating members arrive within 24 hours of a call up and the entire team assembles within 48 to 72 hours.

Lacking a training site, unit members constructed their own railroad track siding.

The unit has a state of the art Web site to constantly communicate with unit members.

You can meet the commander of the brigade, Col. Michael Schweiger, on the unit's Web site.

"I want individuals who, on their own, will coordinate solutions, solve the problems, and keep me informed along the way," said Schweiger, in one of 22 "Guiding Principles" and "Further Thoughts" on the unit's Web page at http://dsc.mtmc.army.mil/1394th/.

The Web site contains a variety of information that ranges from leadership to information necessary for the next drill assembly. On a military Web links page a unit member may directly access such varied sites as the Army Correspondence Course program, Space Available Travel Information, Army Finance/Pay Information and Mobilization.

Schweiger inherited a good unit but wants to make it much, much better.

"There is a dichotomy that exists," said Schweiger. "On the one hand, deployment is an extremely complex task that requires a high experience level.

"On the other hand, the infrequency of major movements as well as soldier turnover makes it impossible for units to maintain the required experience level."

The solution, said Schweiger, is to operate the military organization on a business level.

"Units and installation transportation officers call on the 1394th

See 1394th, page 31

QM company meets soldiers basic needs

(Clockwise) Spc. Wilson Brokington of the 611th, puts soap into a washing machine at the unit's field laundry site. Staff Sgt. Earl Carnahan, a canvas repair specialist in the 611th, sews a unit patch onto a soldiers uniform, in the renovations section of the laundry and bath section. Sgt. Byron Cooper and Pvt. Kathleen Colbert, fold laundry before returning it to the soldiers in the field. Sgt. Christopher Dunn, a laundry and bath specialist from the 611th Quartermaster Company, removes a load of clean laundry to be placed in the dryer.

Story & photos by Spc. Annie Burrows

FORT DIX, N.J.—Hot showers and clean underwear, necessities taken for granted in every day life, may, at times, seem a little hard to come by for soldiers training in the field.

That's where the 611th Quartermaster Laundry and Bath Company from Baltimore, Md., comes in. They can provide these services to units performing operations in the field, within just two days of arriving on location.

For annual training this year, the unit provided support to several units participating in the Petroleum, Oil and Lubricant Exercise, or POLEX, at Fort Dix, N. J.

"We can usually set up our equipment in 24 to 36 hours, but we have to make sure we have a good water source and a system for gray water removal that complies with EPA, or Environmental Protection Agency standards," said 1st Lt. Mary Anne McComas, company commander. "Those are our two biggest challenges."

The 85-member unit is primarily made up of laundry and bath specialists. They set up a shower point, as well as wash and dry a soldier's clothes. Along with these services, the unit also has a renovations section. They sew on rank, patches and name tapes, as well as make repairs.

A unit's supply sergeant collects the laundry from the soldiers and brings it to the 611th. There it is washed, dried and folded. The supply sergeant can then pick up the finished product the next day.

"We can provide a 24-hour turnaround with our laundry facilities," said 2nd Lt. Kristopher Singleton, commander of the unit's Delaware detachment. "We can also do while-you-wait sewing."

Though the 611th may be the only laundry and shower option for some soldiers in the field, they still like to treat the soldiers like customers. "Customer Service is very important to us," said McComas. The unit needs to show soldiers the importance and the quality of the services it offers, so they will continue to come use the facilities, she said.

"Having clean clothes is a great morale booster," said Sgt. Christopher Dunn, a laundry and bath specialist. He says he considers his job one of the most vital in the military. "Hygiene is very important in the field. It's a basic need like eating or sleeping."

The shower point consists of two tents, one for males and one for females, with twelve showerheads in each. A generator is necessary to power both tents and operate the water heater.

"Ours is not a high glory job," said McComas, "but we're very important to the soldiers out there working hard on the front lines. They can come in get refreshed and go back out there focused on what they need to do."

(Spc. Burrows is with the 358th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment out of Salt Lake City, Utah.)

Targeting terrorism

First responders get realistic training

Story by Spc. Jenna C. Bisenius

FORT GORDON, Ga.—Augusta, Ga., has been targeted by terrorists. Their goal is widespread fear and panic, and the major media attention that follows. They will calculate their success by loss of human life.

Several buildings on Fort Gordon and in downtown Augusta are blown up; the city is in chaos and the death toll is rising by the minute. Local agencies work frantically to respond to the attack, but the number of casualties is staggering. Outside help is desperately needed.

This was the scenario set at Consequence Management 2000, a joint terrorism response training exercise attended by more than 1,500 participants from local, state and federal agencies May 15-20 at Fort Gordon. The U.S. Army Reserve focused on training military and civil authorities to work together in responding to domestic terrorist attacks involving nuclear, biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction.

"With Consequence Management 2000, we're basically providing a platform to pull together federal partners in emergency response situations," said Brig. Gen. Donna F. Barbisch, executive coordinator for CM 2000.

"Part of our strength as Reservists is the fact that we're embedded in the civilian community," Barbisch continued. "We have a foot in each world. We need to determine how we can best use that strength when communities call on us for assistance."

Photo by Spc. Jenna Bisenius

Soldiers acting as casualties lay amidst the rubble of a mock explosion, awaiting military and civilian first responders during a terrorism response training exercise.

Along with Army Reserve soldiers, service members from the Air Force Reserve, Georgia National Guard, and active Army also participated. Civilian agencies included the Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Public Health Service, Federal Emergency Management Agency, local hospitals and fire departments, and others.

"Interacting with different branches such as the Air Force and various civilian entities gives us a chance to see how all of our skills would come together if there were a real world incident," said Spc. Greg D. Miller, chemical operations specialist, 326th Chemical Co., Huntsville, Ala. "We get the opportunity to sharpen our skills and see how everyone else contributes to the cause."

"This was our first time working in conjunction with a field hospital," said Sgt. 1st Class Jeff W. Jennings, chemical operations non-commissioned officer with the 326th. "It was also our first time decontaminating patients; we normally just do equipment. Working with live patients allowed us to tweak our techniques and see what procedures we needed to modify so that casualties receive the best possible care."

During CM 2000, terrorism response training and certification was offered not only to soldiers, but civilian medical doctors, nurses, emergency medical technicians, mental health professionals, emergency managers, and others. Instructors and guest speakers included military, VA, FBI, and American Red Cross personnel.

"People came from civilian hospitals to give us classes on triage, I.V.'s, sutures, and other basics," said Spc. Robin Jurado, emergency medical technician, 73rd Field Hospital, St. Petersburg, Fla. "It was interesting seeing how civilian hospitals do things as opposed to the way things are done in a combat hospital environment."

Subjects covered at CM 2000 included managing mass fatality incidents, air evacuation of patients, field and hospital decontamination, patient treatment, preservation of evidence, handling responder stress, field sanitation, litter procedures, dealing with the media, and security.

On May 18th, training went from classroom to real-world, as CM 2000 attendees participated in scenarios such as a mock chemical attack on a building in downtown Augusta and simulated explosions at a gas station and barracks on Fort Gordon. Adding to the realism of the exercise were soldiers and civilians acting as casualties, many displaying fake blood and life-like wounds.

"The training was extremely realistic," said Miller. "It's not like learning from the manual, where it's hard to visualize a real mass casualty situation. Here, we had to deal with live patients who were incoherent, scared, sometimes even difficult, much like you'd have to deal with in the real world."

"Everyone was working together, it didn't matter if you were a civilian or a soldier," said Spc. Luis A. Pagan, chemical and biological specialist with the 73rd. "We combined as a team to treat those casualties and by working together, we learned to trust in one another."

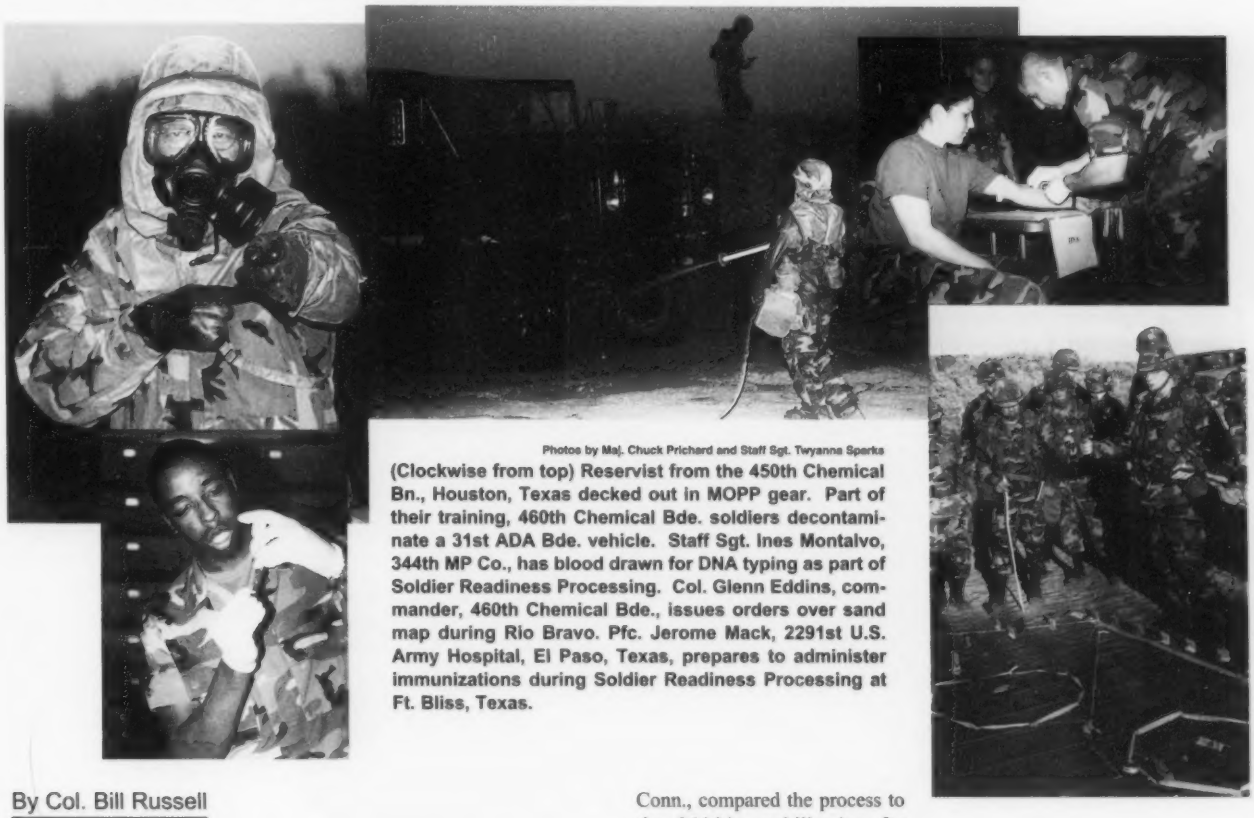
Future Consequence Management exercises may include a satellite operation in Puerto Rico to work in conjunction with the exercise at Fort Gordon, according to Barbisch, who said exercise participants have also expressed an interest in making Consequence Management an annual exercise.

"It's an excellent opportunity to test our resources," said Barbisch. "Unfortunately, as far as terrorist strikes on American soil are concerned, it's not a matter of if, but of when. We have to be ready."

(Spc. Besenius is with the 300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Ft. McPherson, Ga.)

Rio Bravo

460th Chemical Brigade "Smokes 'em" at annual training



Photos by Maj. Chuck Prichard and Staff Sgt. Twyanna Sparks

(Clockwise from top) Reservist from the 450th Chemical Bn., Houston, Texas decked out in MOPP gear. Part of their training, 460th Chemical Bde. soldiers decontaminate a 31st ADA Bde. vehicle. Staff Sgt. Ines Montalvo, 344th MP Co., has blood drawn for DNA typing as part of Soldier Readiness Processing. Col. Glenn Eddins, commander, 460th Chemical Bde., issues orders over sand map during Rio Bravo. Pfc. Jerome Mack, 2291st U.S. Army Hospital, El Paso, Texas, prepares to administer immunizations during Soldier Readiness Processing at Ft. Bliss, Texas.

By Col. Bill Russell

FORT BLISS, Texas—Sgt. Maj. Dana Braquet of Houston, Texas squinted his eyes in the West Texas sun and said, "This exercise is like the Superbowl for us. We plan and practice all year and now we have the opportunity to execute the mission just like the real thing."

The exercise he's referring to is Rio Bravo. The 450th Chemical Battalion sergeant major was one of more than a thousand Reserve and Guard soldiers from seven states participating during May in the third of a series of these annual training (AT) here.

Despite churning 40 mph sandstorms and desert temperatures ranging from 49 to 102 degrees, citizen soldiers from 23 units joined forces with the active Army's 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade for a combined arms chemical exercise.

The Headquarters, 460th Chemical Brigade of North Little Rock, Arkansas (90th RSC) was the executive agent providing command and control for Rio Bravo. The Brigade created a task organization of combat service support units from five Regional Support Commands and the Texas National Guard to pull off the exercise.

Soldiers from the 460th began their AT with a 2-day Soldier Readiness Process (SRP) on the main post of Ft. Bliss. Units rotated 745 reserve component soldiers through a variety of stations for everything from medical exams and immunizations to personnel record updates and legal counseling.

1st Sgt. Michael Mabee, 344th Military Police Company, Hartford, Conn., compared the process to the 344th's mobilization for Desert Storm.

"This one was much faster and better organized. The 460th did in less than 2 hours what it took Ft. Meade days to do for mobilization for the Gulf War".

1st Sgt. Paul Crowder, 360th Chemical Company, Red River Army Depot, Texas confirmed the benefits to his Company.

"We're a high priority unit and taking care of these mobilization issues at the same time and place for all our soldiers is one of the best things that's ever happened to us."

Col. Glenn Eddins, commander of the 460th, said that the USARC is looking at Rio-Bravo as a standard for all units to follow in conducting AT.

"The first year we just came out with five chemical Battalions. The second year we added the MP's and Quartermaster support to the mix, and this year we added on the SRP. Every year we try to add something new that builds confidence and readiness. Today we have 745 soldiers that are better prepared to go to war than before they got here because of the SRP."

Soldiers found the 7-day tactical portion of the training beneficial as well. Sgt. David Morales, 369th Chemical Company, El Paso, Texas described it as "Real World".

See RIO BRAVO, page 31

Medics head south for the winter

352d aids Peruvian community

By Chief Warrant Officer Dale Peery

CAJAMARCA, Peru—In February, 34 members of the 352nd Combat Support Hospital from Oakland, California traveled to the northern highlands of Peru for a 16-day Medical Readiness Training Exercise (MEDRETE) mission in the tranquil colonial city of Cajamarca. In coordination and in conjunction with the Peruvian Military, Ministry of Health and local civilian practitioners the team members provided basic health care to the local populace.

Setting up camp

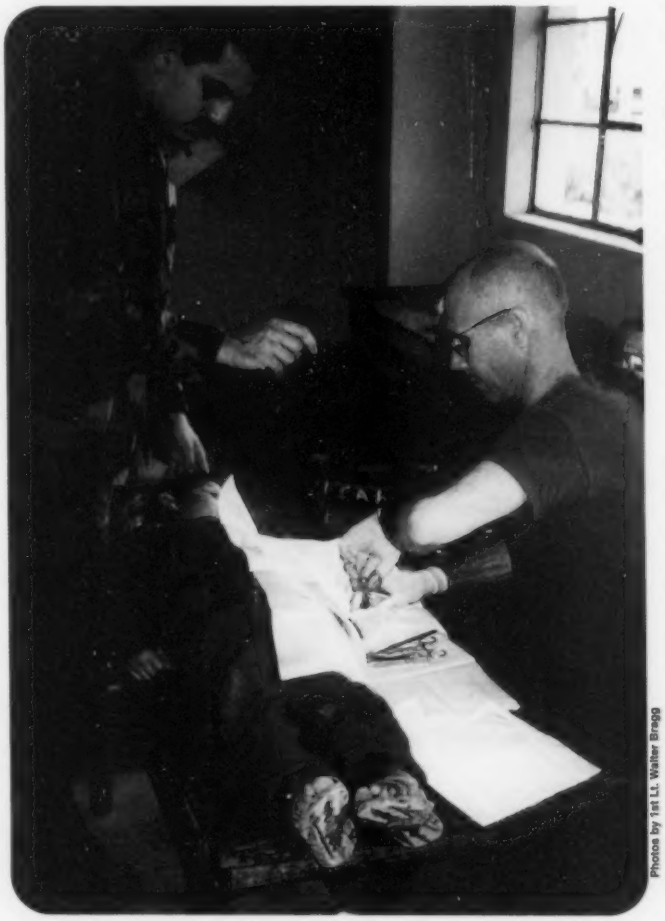
Setting up base camp in the historic Banos Del Incas, "Baths of the Kings" area of Cajamarca the unit set up their treatment stations at three different sites located in schools in nearby neighborhoods. Each location provided many challenges to the MEDRETE team, including lack of lighting, spotty power and more, each challenge was met with optimism and a strong desire to provide the Peruvian people with the very best health care possible.

During the 10 days the clinics were in operation the Doctors, Nurses, Dentists and medics of the 352nd CSH treated over 8,000 patients. Though many different types of ailments were treated, gastrointestinal, upper respiratory, urinary tract and dermatological problems were the most numerous.

"By the end of each day my hands were really swollen, and I had to ice them, but I've never felt better, and would go back if asked..." said the unit's dentist, COL. Franklin Woo. Now affectionately referred to as "painless", Dr. Woo worked closely with Peruvian military dentists to treat over 1,000 patients, extracting more than 600 teeth.

After a check-up by the doctors or nurses, patients were sent to the pharmacy to fill their prescriptions. Boxes overflowing with antibiotics, antihistines, cough medicine and aspirin were distributed to long lines of waiting patients.

MAJ. Stephen Bradley was prepared to treat minor injuries, skin irritations, etc. But what he found was the need for much more. Using primitive operating equipment and facilities his team performed over 40 minor surgical procedures including excision of Lipomas, melanomas and even an amputation of a tumorous finger.



Photos by 1st Lt. Walter Bragg

Maj. Stephen Bradley, a surgeon, assisted by SPC Lester Lesavoy, 91B medic, both from 352nd CSH removing a tumorous growth from a young boy's hand.

Lending a hand

"It's great to know you're helping these people out," said OR Nurse Lt. Bob Clugston, "it was rewarding to be able to work with the Peruvian medics who had limited surgical experience".

According to CPT. Bonnie Davis, Chief Nurse on the mission, "The teamwork, cooperation, organization and professionalism of our soldiers to the mission went beyond even our high expectations. Our soldiers should be very proud of themselves and our unit for their contributions and successes."

(Chief Warrant Officer Peery is the 2nd Medical Brigade Public Affairs Officer)

Teacher, two students, and a paramedic

A watercraft crew of a different sort

Spc. Anthony Wilson, 680th Transportation Company, Virginia Beach, Va., helps finesse a container onto the "pineapple" aboard an LX-48.

Story & Photos by Staff Sgt. Jack Siemieniec

A teacher, two students and a paramedic.

Yes, it could be the right mix after an altercation on a grammar school playground.

But instead, meet the crew of LX-48.

This is an Army watercraft, a Lighter, Amphibious, Resupply, Cargo, or a LARC. The crew are Army Reservists from the 680th Transportation Company (LX), based at Fort Story, Va.

For a weekend a month and two weeks a year, civilian occupations are put aside and the teacher, two students and paramedic become deckhands, engineer and coxswain.

The teacher

This would be Spc. Dana Rhodes, who lives in Chesapeake, Va. He is a watercraft engineer, in the unit now for four years, responsible for all things mechanical on the LARC.

The rest of the time he is a special education teacher in the Chesapeake school system, helping children in grades kindergarten through third overcome, or at least cope with, their learning disabilities.

The students

One of the deckhands is Spc. Stephen Stockton, also from Chesepeake. He's been in the unit now for five years. A student at Radford University, he's a biology major with one year left in school.

The other student.

That would be Spc. Dawn Weast. She is the coxswain, crew chief, person in charge on the LARC, take your pick.

She actually describes herself as a waitress and student, attending Tidewater Community College, studying legal assistance.

Weast has been in the 680th for more than five years and joined, "for college money. Is it all right to say that?" laughing at her own question.

The paramedic

Spc. Anthony Wilson is a paramedic, working for a private company and volunteering in his hometown of Virginia Beach.

He's been in the unit 10 years and while he isn't officially a medic with the 680th, takes the duties on, "To help the soldiers," he said.

This crew of four works well together, knowing what needs to be done and doing it before having to be told.

In the cab, Weast finesses the LARC forward and back to manuever it into place after casting off and then receiving instructions to come back to the Fischer.

As the containers inch their way down, she uses hand signals to let the crane operator, atop the larger ship's deck, know what to do.

Other than Rhodes, the engineer, the other three began their Army careers as seamen. At a certain point, they can advance to the official title of watercraft operator, or coxswain.

Wilson, while still holding the title of deckhand or seaman, moves around the LARC with an ease that doesn't need a special title. He is adept with the lines, poles and other nuances of the boat.

He's been to Panama three times for training exercises and knows as much about the "Mike" boats, the Landing Craft, Mechanized, as he does about the LARCs.

"This has been a good AT (annual training). All of us are getting a lot of 'stick' time, getting a chance to operate the LARC."

Asked why he stays in the Reserve, Wilson's answer is stunningly articulate.

"The people. I like my job. Once you meet a lot of people, it's hard to go elsewhere.

"It's one big family," said the paramedic.

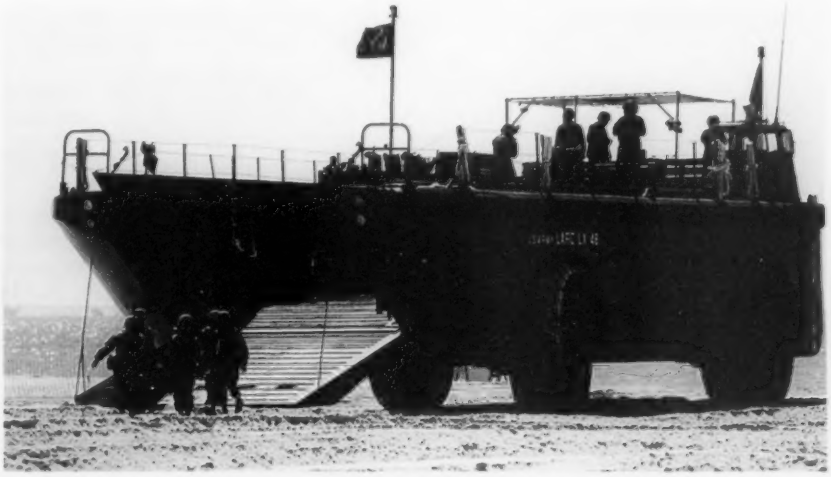
Spc. Dana Rhodes, a watercraft engineer, checks the oil pressure and temperature gauges. Rhodes, a member of the 680th Transportation Company (LX), Ft. Story, is from Chesapeake, Va.

TRANSLOTS
From page 6

rotations.

During the first iteration, the 32nd Transportation Group, an Army Reserve unit from Tampa, Fla., served as the command and control for the exercise before handing over the reins to the active duty's 7th Transportation Group, from Fort Eusits, Va., June 18, Collins said. He added that about 1,100 Army Reservists were involved in TRANSLOTS.

A principal focus for Reservists at TRANSLOTS, were the LARCs, consisting of crews with the military occupational specialties of watercraft operators, or coxswains. At skill level 10, normally through the rank of specialist, soldiers serve as seamen, or deckhands, after their six-week advanced individual training. At skill level 20, normally sergeant, they become coxswains. LARC crews, usually five soldiers, also contain watercraft engineers to maintain the mechanics of the boats.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Jack Siemieniec

LARC LX-48 dwarfs soldiers about to walk up its ramp as it sits on the Fort Story beach site. Transportation and quartermaster soldiers work at the 1,200-foot long causeway pier. A Landing Craft Mechanized -- Mike boat -- sits along the left side of the pier. The large ship at the end of the pier is a Logistics Support Vessel -- LSV.

One of those engineers, Spc. Dana Rhodes, also in the 680th, from Chesapeake, Va., said the LARCs four engines, besides powering the wheels and ramp, convert to turn the twin propellers and rudders when afloat. He added that two 300-gallon fuel tanks keep the LARCs chugging along at a top speed of about six knots, about eight miles per hour on land.

According to, Capt. Edwin Vasquez, commander of the 680th based at Fort Story. Va., the unit is the Army Reserve's last LARC unit. He added that his active-duty counterpart, the 309th Transportation Company, also based at Fort Story, is that component's last LARC unit.

"There are two ways to unload a ship," he said. "There's RO/RO and there's LO/LO. RO/RO is roll on/roll off for vehicles and equipment, and LO/LO is load on/load off. The LARCs are the only ones to get on the beach and drive it inland."

1394TH
From page 24

much like companies in the private sector call in consultants," said Schweiger. "The consultant aspect allows a unit to obtain the instant expertise needed to safely and smoothly complete a move."

Training assistance to supported units is equally important to mission success, said Schweiger.

Most of the unit's missions are in support or rail loads from home stations locations to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., or the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La.

Coordination with contractors is essential, according to Sgt. 1st Class Kerry Hendershot, a team leader.

"The first thing I do when I get to a railhead is to meet with the railroad inspector and find out his exact time tie-down requirements," said Hendershot.

"I don't know how many times I've seen a unit spend half a day tying down vehicles onto rail cars only to find they did it wrong and have to start all over."

Standards may vary between railroads and among inspectors, said Hendershot.

"Soldiers who have just spent 10 days in the field appreciate a well-organized and efficient rail load operation," said Hendershot, "which is exactly what one of our teams can ensure."

The 1394th played a key role in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

Deployment support teams were sent throughout the country to assist unit moves.

"I spent the better part of the first three months of Desert Shield bouncing from unit-to-unit, providing guidance on how to get their unit to port," said Hendershot.

"With all the mobilization, family and training priorities these unit had — the actual deployment aspects were often left unattended."

After mobilizing stateside units, the 1394th was later activated during Desert Storm. Unit members assisted Army units in redeploying to Europe and the United States.

One of the unit's most recent successes was building a state-of-the-art rail-training site.

Built four years ago by the 1394th, the site has a simulated railhead with actual rail cars.

"This hands-on training, along with an internally developed certification program, maintains the skills of the deployment teams and prepares them for the next mission," said Schweiger.

The 1394th is one of three deployment support brigades in the United States. Each brigade is composed of 13 deployment support teams. Total strength is 95 soldiers

The mission of the 1394th is to support installations in the Western United States.

Deployment support teams, usually consisting of three officers and three non-commissioned officers, support railheads, ports and air terminals throughout the West.

Each deployment has its own unique characteristics, said Lt. Col. Steve Mogan, chief, operations.

"We structure our teams so that each team has expertise in all areas of deployment—from railroading, to automation, to air loading to hazardous materials," said Mogan.

"Our role is to provide the needed linkage and communications between the unit and the transportation requirements.

(Maj. Lane is the personnel officer for the 1394th Deployment Support Brigade)

MASS
From page 14

this training year, said Fink, who is proud of the role his unit played in certifying the CST. "We know now we have second responders to assist civilian first responders when they exceed their local resources and capabilities," he said. "The importance of this, by having these teams in the National Guard, it's something we can't provide in the active force. They are in the community already, and can respond quicker."

"All of you deserve an awful lot of credit," said Brig. Gen. David Harris, The Adjutant General for the Illinois National Guard, addressing the CST during the final after action report. "And we couldn't do it without the absolutely great support from 1st Army and the training support brigade … We really, really value what you did to help us understand what the team needs to do. I hope you never have to be used. I hope that from the bottom of my heart. But if you are used, you'll be ready."

(Maj. Legg is the 85th Division Public Affairs Officer)

COBRA
From page 14

biggest obstacles in Thailand are heat and humidity. However, they also agreed that the different environment helps assure the equipment will work properly in various climates.

Learning to overcome these types of obstacles and learning to work with their counterparts in other U.S. forces are just ways service members here are taking advantage of the training opportunities available during Cobra Gold 2000.

(Army Spc. Daisy Bueno is assigned to the Cobra Gold Combined/Joint Information Bureau, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand.)

RIO BRAVO
From page 27

"We had real good missions -- river crossings, screenings, and our young soldiers in particular got a good dose of field soldiering," the Texas native said.

Highlight of the exercise was the smoke and decontamination support. The 285th Engineer Company from Baton Rouge, La., along with its El Paso Detachment, laid down smoke and provided decontamination support.

Early in the exercise unit leaders participated in desert Rock Drill briefings using a made to scale ground map where leaders walked through tactical operations.

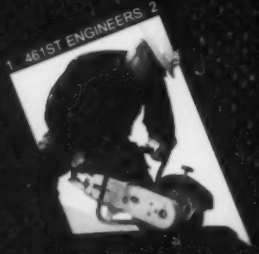
Sgt. Maj. John Griffin, 460th Chemical Brigade Operations, "wowed" those who saw it with his Rock Drill area.

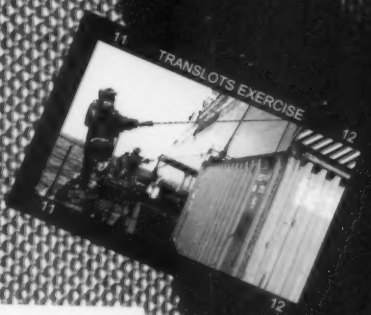
"It was pretty impressive" said Lt. Col. Paul Machin, Commander, 372d QM Battalion, Albuquerqe, NM.

"I've been around quite awhile and I've never seen a Rock Drill, much less brief in one, so this was a first for me."

As for Exercise Rio-Bravo? Eddins responded, "We'll do it again with even more units and this time the 75th Maneuver Division has agreed to conduct a leader validation course along with a 96 hour CPX for us. It won't be easy….but nothing worthwhile ever is."

(Sgt. Twyanna Sparks, 31st ADA Brigade, Ft. Bliss, TX, contributed to this article. Col. Russell is with the 460th Chemical Brigade)





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